

nately require. England held them as slaves in 1815, and South Carolina has not consented to change them from things to men! If she had thought of West India emancipation in 1815, she never would have assented to a treaty which could be made to include them and ought not to have entered it.

We have probably hit the nail on the head, and have little doubt that the nine circles will clinch it. As Judge Story who delivered Maryland from a similar scrape, is gone we will, on request, write out the opinion of the Court, and modestly accept a leather medal from the Union Committee of Safety, *in perpetuum re testimoniam*.

Since writing the foregoing, we find the following in exchange:

The *Chadron Mercury* of 18th June says: "We learn that the case of Bascom Roberts against Sheriff Yates, or rather of Great Britain against South Carolina, has come to a very lame conclusion, and that no trial will ever be had before the British Minister, that further proceedings in the case be discontinued, and that their cause be paid off and discharged.

It is presumed that the British Government will do nothing, whatever

might be the decision of the case, before the Supreme Court, they could only gain a loss by it; and the greater loss in the event of winning the suit, inasmuch as it would most certainly have been followed, not by the abrogation of the laws of South Carolina, but that of the reciprocity treaty, on which their complaint was founded."

We have nothing to say to this till we understand it better.

E.

The Emancipation Railroad.—Following are some extracts of stock of this news as received at the meeting of the Commissioners, on Tuesday, to have been subscribered:

In Washington, 1,806 shares; Georgetown, 6,723; Rockville, 220; Hagerstown, 216; Frederick, 100.

This last deficiency of 920 shares to make up the required number of ten thousand, to authorize a master for the organization of the company; the charter, it becomes necessary to re-open the subscription for ten days more, for further subscribers.

We have nothing to say to this till we understand it better.

E.

The Excitement at New Orleans, on account of the reported revolt among the slaves, is much ridiculed by the press of that city. They state that the excitement originated in this way: A slave, named Albert, the property of Dr. Rushton, being troubled with mania & *alibi*, imagined in his fit that he had an army, and told a free negro of it, who told the lieutenant of the police, and hence the excitement.

On the night of the 14th instant, under the influence of morphine, the negro (Albert) came to his senses, and now knows nothing of his confession of the night before.

The alarm from this cause, however, was general, and the police and people were very active to suppress the disorder.

Last week we copied from the *Raleigh* (N.C.) Register a paragraph, that H. B. Wilson was sent to jail on charge of whipping his slave to death. The Register of 22d June has the following paragraph:

On Saturday last, Harry B. Wilson, who was committed a few days since under a charge of murder, was carried before Judge Sammers, under a writ of *habeas corpus*. After a long examination of the case, the Judge admitted him to bail, which he readily gave. George W. Haywood and H. W. Miller, Esq., appeared for the prisoner.

Are we to understand from this, that murder is a bailable offense in North Carolina?

The Free Democracy of Delaware county, Ohio, have nominated Raymond Burr for Representative, Ezra Riley for County Commissioner, and Samuel Rheam for County Treasurer. Shubael W. Knapp was named for State Senator for the district composed of Licking and Delaware counties.

August Belmont, appointed by President Pierce U. S. Chargé to the Netherlands, was Consul for the Austria Government in the United States when Webster wrote his celebrated letter to Mr. Hulsmann.

We see it stated, that the first proposal to dissolve the Union, and set up a Southern Confederacy, was published in the *Virginia Argus*, on 31st July, 1795.

A correspondent of the *Puritan Recorder* furnishes some extracts from an address to the Presbyterians of Kentucky, prepared by a committee of ten, appointed for the purpose by the Synod of that State, in 1838, and published, with emphatic and unqualified approbation, in the *New York Observer*. The address sets forth, that "Slavery produces general licentiousness among the slaves;" that "marriage is a civil ordinance it cannot enjoy;" that "the system demoralizes the whites as well as the blacks;" that "man has no right to arrogate the prerogative of the Almighty; he has no right, uncommissioned by his Master, either to enslave or destroy his fellow;" that "the arguments drawn from the Bible in support of Despotism are much more plausible than those in favor of Slavery; that each one of the several things which constitute Slavery, is sinful;" that "none of us believe that God has so wholly a whole race that it is better for them to remain in perpetual bondage;" and that "it is the unquestioned duty of every Christian to use vigorous and immediate measures for the destruction of this whole system, and for the removal of all its unhappy effects."

The *Observer* does not now entertain the opinions expressed by the Christians of Kentucky in 1838. It should remember that no statute of limitations will apply in this case. What was true of the system of Slavery seven years ago, is true now.

A *Moderator*, the Pittsburgh Gazette, alluding to the destruction of Senator Atchison, said, "We rather see Nebraska Territory a sink, than a ball of fire, which is organized as a free State," says if any leading Northern man should make such an expression in regard to the admission of Nebraska as a free State, we should never hear the end of it. Mr. Atchison has been deemed worthy to provide over the deliberations of the American Senate! Some of our modern statesmen are not worthy to be named with the statesmen of the early days of the Republic.

The New York Express (Hunker) whose editor helped to save the Union in 1860, thus boasts in its last:

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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For the National Era.

THE SOUTHERN PLATFORM:

MANUAL OF SOUTHERN SENTIMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF SLAVERY.

Being a Compilation from the Writings of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and others whose names are associated with the affections of the South. Prepared by the Friends of the Federal and State Constitutions which framed and ratified the Constitution of the United States—these which occurred in the first Congress, which sat during the Administration of George Washington, and in the Debate in the Virginia Legislature in 1832, with various letters, judicial decisions, &c.

BY DAVID R. GOOLSBY, OF NORTH CAROLINA.

[CONTINUED.]

ELIJAH'S DEBATES—VOL. II.

Debates in Virginia State Convention called to consider the Constitution.

Governor Randolph. I am informed, and believe rightly, because I derive my information from those whose knowledge is most respectable, that Virginia is in a very unhappy position with respect to her Southern neighbors. She is a frontier state, and for commercial purposes, her situation by sea, let us look at land. She has frontiers adjoining the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Can there be a more difficult position? Will she be inaccessible to the inhabitants of those States? Cast your eyes to the Western country, that is inhabited by cruel savages, your natural enemies, who, if they can, will exterminate you. If they barkly, they may be excited by the gold of foreign enemies to commit the most horrid ravages on your people. Our great and increasing population is one great evil; and will bring about every calamity that can overtake us. How difficult is it to collect their strength or defend the country! This is one point of weakness. I wish, for the honor of my country, that it was the only one. There is another circumstance which makes the Southern position less eligible. Are we not weakened by the population of those whom we hold in slavery? The day may come when they may make impression upon us. Gentlemen who have been long accustomed to the contemplation of war, will think there is a cause of alarm in this case. The number of those people, compared to that of the white population, is in proportion, to their annual amounts to \$32,000—Pages 80, 81.

Mr. Mason. We are told, in strong language, of dangers to which we will be exposed, unless we adopt this Constitution. Among the rest, we are told, that it will not be possible for this Government not to attend to our domestic safety. It authorizes the importation of slaves for twenty odd years, and then continues to do so for two more. Is it not, therefore, evident that it is to be expected that this is a fact, which has created more dangers than any other? The first clause allows the importation of slaves for twenty years. Under the royal Government this evil was looked upon as a great oppression; and many attempts were made to prevent it; but a tax may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person. No sooner did the Revolution take place, than it was thought. It was one of the greatest achievements of the Great British Empire. Its exclusion has been a principal object of the South, and most of the States in the Union. The augmentation of slaves weakens the States, and such a trade is diabolical in itself, and deserves to be prohibited. Let us, however, consider what we have done already. As much as we have done, to secure the adoption of this Constitution, we have secured it to ourselves, and the loss of which would bring ruin on a great many people.

Mr. Lee of Westmoreland. The honorable gentleman who has just spoken, I trust, will not be surprised to learn that he is right. He is, indeed, right in his opinion of the importation of slaves, and because it does not secure the continuance of the existing slavery. Is it not obviously inconsistent to criminalize two contradictory reasons? I infer, however, that he is right, because he is a man, who, if he is reprehensible in the one case, it can be sensuous in the other! Mr. Lee, then concluded, by earnestly recommending to the committee to proceed regularly—
Page 82.

Mr. Pendleton. I am unfortunately enough to differ from the worthy member in another circumstance. He proclaims himself an advocate for mankind, and the rights of man; and, as far as I am concerned, I am to the equal liberty of all men—from the palace to the shanty, without any other distinction than between good and bad men. I appeal to my public life and private behavior, that I have not practiced any thing like this. Some distinctions have been brought forth and communicated to the audience, and will be thereto disseminated. I beg gentlemen to take with them this observation, that distinction is to be made by the operation. From the friends of the new Government they have heard none. None such are to be found in the organization of the party before you.

By bringing up the details of wringers introducing the distinction of well-born from others? I consider every man well-born who comes into the world with an intelligent mind, and with all his parts perfect. I am an advocate for fixing our Government on true republican principles, given to the poor, and free liberty in its pure and proper—
Page 212.

Mr. Henry. It is exceedingly painful to differ from the worthy member in another circumstance. He proclaims himself an advocate for mankind, and the rights of man; and, as far as I am concerned, I am to the equal liberty of all men—from the palace to the shanty, without any other distinction than between good and bad men. I appeal to my public life and private behavior, that I have not practiced any thing like this. Some distinctions have been brought forth and communicated to the audience, and will be thereto disseminated. I beg gentlemen to take with them this observation, that distinction is to be made by the operation.

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Mr. Henry. He told gentlemen that these classes were sufficient to shak all their implications. For, says he, if Congress had no power but what was given to them, why restrict them by negative words? Is not the clear implication this—that if these restrictions were not in the Constitution, they would not be valid? How will the quota of troops be furnished? Hated as requisitions are, your federal officers cannot collect troops like soldiers, and carry them in their pockets. You must, therefore, be compelled to require them, and the scale will be in proportion to the number of your blacks, as well as your whites unless they violate the constitutional rule of apportionment.

The quota of troops is founded in the fact of the power to tax. It is founded in truth. How oppressive and dangerous must this be to the Southern States, who alone have slaves!

This will render their proportion infinitely greater than that of the Northern States. It has been said, that the Southern States will be compelled to pay the quota of the rule. I will appeal to the judgments of the committee whether there be danger—
Pages 240, 241.

Mr. Henry. He told gentlemen that these classes were sufficient to shak all their implications. For, says he, if Congress had no power but what was given to them, why restrict them by negative words? Is not the clear implication this—that if these restrictions were not in the Constitution, they would not be valid?

He told them that he had opposed this wicked clause, and that he would do so again.

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